

U. S. Department of Justice United States Attorney Western District of Wisconsin

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PRESS RELEASE

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin , sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments today. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

FORMER DIRECTOR OF POLICE UNION CHARGED WITH FRAUD

Stanley James Kluss, DOB 04/03/1941, of Crandon, Wisconsin, was charged with 18 counts of mail fraud and 19 counts of embezzlement from the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA), a labor organization representing approximately 11,000 police officers in 400 local entities throughout Wisconsin and Michigan. The indictment alleges that between October 2000 and February 2004, while employed as the Executive Director of the WPPA, Kluss devised a scheme to defraud the WPPA of over \$20,000 to which he was not entitled by (a) charging unauthorized personal expenses to the WPPA credit cards assigned to him, (b) obtaining cash advances on the credit cards, and (c) submitting false reimbursement claims for mileage on WPPA vehicles. Each mail fraud count carries a maximum penalty of 20 years, and each embezzlement count carries a maximum penalty of five years.

According to the indictment, Kluss caused the WPPA to pay for unauthorized expenses, in the amount of approximately \$8,879.09, by disguising them as WPPA expenses. Unauthorized expenses that Kluss caused the WPPA to pay included groceries, shampoo, candle holders, VHS and DVD movies, dog food, condoms, cigarettes, a snowmobile, cash advances, tickets to a Shania Twain concert, and a trip to Walt Disney World in Florida.

When Kluss submitted documentation to the WPPA, he claimed the charges on the WPPA credit cards issued to him were related to the WPPA's business. In fact, according to the indictment, Kluss charged personal expenses and disguised the purchases by submitting altered receipts for the credit card purchases to the WPPA bookkeeper. Kluss altered the receipts by cutting off the top and bottom portion of the receipt and taping the two sections together, thereby deleting the detail portion of the receipts that identified the items he had purchased, or deleting the date or place of purchase. By submitting these altered receipts, Kluss caused the WPPA to pay the credit card bills and to issue reimbursement checks.

This matter was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor Management Standards. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

HURLEY MAN FACES GUN CHARGE

Joseph N. Russo, DOB 01/28/1963, of Hurley, Wisconsin, was charged with being a felon in possession of three firearms. The indictment alleges that Russo possessed a rifle and two shotguns. If convicted, Russo faces a maximum penalty of 10 years. This matter was investigated by the Hurley Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF UNREGISTERED FIREARM

Donald Sharon, DOB 05/16/1987, of Conover, Wisconsin, was charged with possession of a firearm not registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. If convicted, Sharon faces a maximum penalty of 10 years. This matter was investigated by the Vilas County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

MUSCODA MAN CHARGED WITH COUNTERFEITING

Michael M. Miller, DOB 05/21/1981, of Muscoda, Wisconsin, was charged with counterfeiting approximately \$15,000 in United States currency. If convicted, Miller faces a maximum penalty of 20 years. This matter was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the Richland County Sheriff's Department, and the Richland Center Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

INMATE CHARGED WITH POSSESSING HEROIN

James Robinson, age 32, of Oxford, Wisconsin, was charged with possession of a prohibited object, namely heroin, while an inmate of a federal prison. If convicted, Robinson faces a maximum penalty of 10 years. This matter was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the federal Bureau of Prisons. The prosecution of this matter has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

MAN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY INTO U.S.

Juan Pinzon-Castro, DOB 02/07/1980, an alien who had previously been deported from the United States, was charged with illegally re-entering the United States. He was found in Superior, Wisconsin, on September 14, 2005. If convicted, Pinzon-Castro faces a maximum penalty of two years. This matter was investigated by the Superior Police Department and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution of this matter has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

TWO MADISON MEN FACE DRUG CHARGES

Esriel Prado (DOB 06/06/1984) and Osvaldo A. Chimal-Delacruz (DOB 03/17/1978), both of Madison, Wisconsin, were charged with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute a mixture or substance containing cocaine. The indictment alleges that the amount of cocaine involved in the conspiracy was 500 grams or more. If convicted, the defendants face a minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 40 years. This matter was investigated by the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force, the Madison Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution of this matter has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Graber.

MINNESOTA MAN CHARGED WITH LA CROSSE BANK ROBBERY

Darrell M. McCormick, DOB 06/30/1975, of Rochester, Minnesota, was charged with one count of bank robbery. The indictment alleges that McCormick robbed the Associated Bank in Onalaska, Wisconsin, on October 4, 2005. McCormick was arrested by the Onalaska Police Department yesterday and made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Madison today. If convicted, McCormick faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. This matter was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Onalaska Police Department, and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

MINNESOTA MAN CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT FROM LA CROSSE BANK

Matthew Jon Nelson, DOB 12/21/1982, of Dakota, Minnesota, was charged with the embezzlement of more than \$1,000 from the Wells Fargo Bank N.A. in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in September 2005, while an employee of the bank. If convicted, Nelson faces a maximum penalty of 30 years. This matter was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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